

Senate Bill 128
Proponent written testimony

Private School Testimony of Whitney Adams

Chairman Tyson and to the Committee:

I am a previous student of 2 private schools; one for K-8th and one for high school. I appreciate both schools for various reasons, but the academics stick out to me most. We always graded higher on standard tests than public schools and we were often tutoring our public school friends because they were behind in the scoring.

In college, my classmates couldn't believe that I was solving long division, multiplication, and even graphs without the use of a calculator! One student told me "it couldn't be done without a calculator!"

We also excel in language/speech/writing. The private grade school I attended taught (and still teaches) cursive, and my son, who is now attending the same school, can write entire paragraphs in cursive and he's only in 2nd grade! My daughter, who is in Kindergarten, can already write sentences and read simple books.

I also love the safety of the classroom setting. The kids are proud to state the Pledge of Allegiance in the morning and are taught to respect adults, respect others, and themselves. We have several nationalities represented through teachers and students in our school and no one is blindsided by skin color or ethnicity. We all share a common goal of learning school subjects and also valuable life lessons.

The cost of a private school is quite a financial burden, and some of our friends have chosen to homeschool because they just can't afford it, though they often complain that they wish private schools were cheaper. We feel this is an investment in our children's lives and give up other non-necessity spending to make sure the school bill is paid.

The teachers from private schools are paid below average salaries yet do so with a positive attitude because it's worth it to have true freedom of speech. It's worth it to have the freedom to teach truth in all subjects from science to history. It's worth it to be able to offer guidance and discipline (where needed) to help encourage and correct students to better prepare them for life situations they will surely come in contact with.

I urge you to pass this bill SB 128 to allow a tax credit for any student attending a private school to help relieve the burden of financial hardship so more children can have the option to attend.

Thank-you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,
Whitney Adams